



Forest Service *Centennial*

Snapshot

A time to celebrate

Wayne National Forest US Forest Service

Nelsonville, OH: They were the lands that nobody wanted – over-grazed, burned, logged, and abandoned tax-delinquent farmsteads.

In 1905 Congress created the U.S. Forest Service to acquire and manage these lands as national forests. The first lands were acquired in southeast Ohio for what would one day be the Wayne National Forest in 1934. After a century of hard work these lands are once again vibrant forests that everybody wants to use and enjoy for a multitude of benefits.

Join us in 2005 as we celebrate the Forest Service's heritage in a series of monthly articles about the Wayne National Forest.

Interestingly, the national forests are not the first lands set aside in southeastern Ohio for public benefit. The first lands may have been the salt licks.

Today, salt is so plentiful and inexpensive that people rarely consider its importance. To Native Americans and early European settlers salt was important as a preservative for meats and as a spice. Along the Ohio frontier, salt was such an important commodity that it was carried over the Appalachian Mountains on packhorses and sold for as much as \$6 per bushel.

The salt licks along the Salt Lick Creek in Jackson County were so vital that the 1802 legislation to create Ohio forbid the state

from selling the salt lands. Instead, the salt licks were kept in public ownership and leased to brine producers.

By the time of the Civil War, Ohio was a leading state in salt production. One of the most successful salt plants was in Pomeroy, Meigs County, which continued to produce salt until the 1970s.

The image below is an 1875 lithograph of the Salina Saltworks.



There are over 300 miles of trails open to hiking in the winter months. Whatever the season, you're sure to enjoy your national forest.

Forest Fact

The 236,500 acre Wayne National Forest is one of 155 national forests.

Upcoming Events

The annual National River Cleanup Day is May 14th on the Little Muskingum River.

Check out our Websites

www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne
www.fs.fed.us/centennial

For more information

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